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LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A computer implemented method for identifying slow links in a distributed network comprising a plurality of computers and having a plurality of endpoints, said endpoints being connected to said network by a plurality of links comprising the steps of:

defining an original link speed factor comprising a predicted speed for each of said plurality of links;

performing at least one runtime measurement of at least one runtime link speed indicator for each of said plurality of links;

calculating a runtime link speed factor based on said runtime measurement of at least one runtime link speed indicator for each of said plurality of links; ~~and~~

comparing the original link speed factor with ~~to~~ the runtime link speed factor for each of said plurality of links;

designating as a slow link any link for which the runtime link speed factor satisfies a desired relationship to the original link speed factor; and

sending notification to at least one of said plurality of computers about at least one designated slow link.

2-3. (canceled)

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4. (currently amended) The method according to ~~Claim 2~~ Claim 1, wherein a plurality of applications are running in said network and further comprising notifying at least one of said applications about at least one ~~of the~~ designated slow link links.

5. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 4 further comprising said at least one of said applications altering its usage of said at least one ~~of the~~ designated slow link links.

6. (currently amended) The method according to ~~Claim 2~~ Claim 1 wherein a plurality of applications are running in said network and further comprising automatically altering application usage of the at least one designated slow link links.

7. (currently amended) The method according to ~~Claim 2~~ Claim 1 further comprising identifying at least one designated slow link links to a system administrator.

8. (currently amended) The method according to ~~Claim 2~~ Claim 7 further comprising said system administrator altering application usage of the at least one designated slow link links.

9-10. (canceled)

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11. (currently amended) A computer implemented method for dynamically adjusting application usage of links in a distributed network comprising a plurality of computers having a plurality of endpoints, said endpoints being connected by a plurality of links comprising the steps of:

detecting at least one slow link in said distributed network;

for each detected slow link, determining what specific applications require access to said detected slow link; and

adjusting application usage of said detected slow link by said each of said specific applications.

12. (original) The method according to Claim 11 wherein said adjusting application usage comprises invoking preprogrammed application responses.

13. (original) The method according to Claim 11 wherein said adjusting application usage comprises the steps of:

notifying a system administrator of the detection of at least one slow link; and

said system administrator identifying specific actions to adjust application usage of said at least one slow link.

14. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 11 further comprising the steps of:

a system administrator predefining and storing at least one application response to ~~the~~ detection of at least one slow ~~links~~ link in said distributed network; and

retrieving said at least one application response upon detection of said at least one slow link.

15. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 11 wherein said identifying at least one slow link comprises the steps of:

defining an original link speed factor comprising a predicted speed for each of said plurality of links;

performing at least one runtime measurement of at least one runtime link speed indicator for each of said plurality of links;

calculating a runtime link speed factor based on said runtime measurement of at least one runtime link speed indicator for each of said plurality of links;

comparing the original link speed factor with ~~to~~ the runtime link speed factor for each of said plurality of links; and

designating as a slow link any link for which the runtime link speed factor satisfies a desired relationship to the original link speed factor.

16. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 11 wherein a plurality of applications are running in said network and further comprising automatically altering application usage of the at least one designated slow link links.

17. (currently amended) Apparatus for identifying slow links in a distributed network comprising a plurality of computers having a plurality of endpoints, said endpoints being connected by a plurality of links comprising:

at least one storage location for storing an original link speed factor comprising a predicted speed for each of said plurality of links;

at least one measurement component for performing at least one runtime measurement of at least one runtime link speed indicator for each of said plurality of links;

a processing component for calculating a runtime link speed factor based on said runtime measurement of at least one runtime link speed indicator for each of said plurality of links; and

a comparator component for comparing the original link speed factor with ~~to~~ the runtime link speed factor for each of said plurality of links; and

wherein said processing component further comprises a component for designating as a slow link any link for which the runtime link speed factor satisfies a desired relationship to the original link speed factor and for generating notification to at

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least one of said plurality of computers about at least one designated slow link.

18-19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) The apparatus according to ~~Claim 18~~ Claim 17 wherein a plurality of applications are running in said network and wherein said apparatus further comprises a component for automatically altering application usage of the at least one designated slow link links.

21. (currently amended) The apparatus according to ~~Claim 18~~ Claim 17 further comprising graphical user interface means for identifying at least one designated slow link links to a system administrator.

22. (currently amended) The apparatus according to Claim 21 further comprising user input means for said system administrator to input instructions for altering application usage of the at least one designated slow link links.

23-24. (canceled)

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25. (currently amended) Apparatus for dynamically adjusting application usage of links in a distributed network comprising a plurality of computers having a plurality of endpoints, said endpoints being connected by a plurality of links comprising:

at least one detection component for detecting at least one detected slow link in said distributed network; and

a processing component for determining what specific applications requires access to each of said at least one detected slow link ~~links~~; and for adjusting application usage of said detected slow link by said each of said specific applications.

26. (currently amended) The apparatus according to Claim 25 further comprising storage means for storing preprogrammed application responses to at least one detected slow link ~~links~~.

27. (original) The apparatus according to Claim 25 further comprising:

notification means for notifying a system administrator of the detection of at least one slow link; and

user input means for said system administrator to input specific actions to adjust application usage of said at least one slow link.

28. (currently amended) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for identifying slow links in a distributed network comprising a plurality of computers having a plurality of endpoints, said endpoints being connected by a plurality of links, said method comprising the steps of:

defining an original link speed factor comprising a predicted speed for each of said plurality of links;

performing at least one runtime measurement of at least one runtime link speed indicator for each of said plurality of links;

calculating a runtime link speed factor based on said runtime measurement of at least one runtime link speed indicator for each of said plurality of links; and

comparing the original link speed factor ~~with~~ to the runtime link speed factor for each of said plurality of links;

designating as a slow link any link for which the runtime link speed factor satisfies a desired relationship to the original link speed factor; and

sending notification to at least one of said plurality of computers about at least one designated slow link.

29. (canceled)

30. (previously presented) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for dynamically adjusting application usage of links in a distributed network comprising a plurality of computers having a plurality of endpoints, said endpoints being connected by a plurality of links, said method comprising the steps of:

detecting at least one slow link in said distributed network;

for each detected slow link, determining what specific applications requires access to said detected slow link; and

adjusting application usage of said detected slow link by said each of said specific applications.